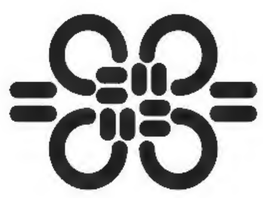
NATSUMI ANDO

Something's Wrong With Us

8

Something's Wrong With Us



NATSUMI ANDO

8

CHARACTERS

Tsubaki Takatsuki
The heir to the historic *wagashi* shop Kogetsuan. Proposed to Nao without recognizing who she really was.

He grew to actually love Nao and was shocked when he learned her true identity.

Nao Hanaoka
A *wagashi* confectioner. Finds meaning in life by making *wagashi* that connect her to her late mother.

Tsubaki used to call her "Sakura" back when they were children. Seeing the color red gives her severe heart palpitations.

The Proprietress
Tsubaki's mother. Ever since she lost her husband (Tsubaki's father) 18 years ago, she has been desperate to make Tsubaki the head of Kogetsuan.

Old Master Takatsuki
Tsubaki's grandfather. The head of Kogetsuan. Mistreats Tsubaki because he is convinced that Tsubaki isn't his real grandson.

Shiori
The third daughter of the prestigious Haseya Inn and Tsubaki's former fiancée. She rescued Tsubaki from the Kogetsuan fire.

STORY

As a child, Nao meets Tsubaki at Kogetsuan, the historic wagashi shop where her mother works as a live-in confectioner. But her mother is arrested on murder charges and Nao is forced to leave.

When they reunite 15 years later, Tsubaki proposes to Nao without recognizing her.

Nao hides her identity and marries Tsubaki to get access to Kogetsuan, but gradually finds herself falling in love with him.

However, Nao discovers the secret behind both of their births and decides that she needs to leave Tsubaki. Soon afterward, Tsubaki finds out that she is actually "Sakura," the girl from his childhood.

Kogetsuan is engulfed in flames. Nao passes out, and Tsubaki is also left unconscious in a critical state. As a result, the two are separated. The months go by and Kogetsuan reopens for business, but where are Nao and Tsubaki now?

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 37
Red Awakening — 4
CHAPTER 38
Onto a Path Filled With Thorns — 35
CHAPTER 39
The Third Autumn — 66
CHAPTER 40
Hanagasumi — 96
CHAPTER 41
The Selection — 126

CHAPTER 37 *Red Awakening*

...I WAS UNCONSCIOUS FOR TEN DAYS.

AFTER THE FIRE...

WHEN I CAME TO, SHE WAS ALREADY GONE.

FINALLY, USE THE CHOPSTICKS TO PICK UP THE *KINTON* YOU MADE...

TEN MONTHS LATER...

...AT KOGETSUAN.

庵月光

Sign: Kogetsuan

...AND PLACE THEM AT THE CENTER OF THE FLOWERS.

BLOSSOMS IN SPRING MEADOWS...

... "SUMIRESO."*

*A species of violet.

THEY KEEP CRUMBLING.

I CAN'T GET THEM TO STICK.

USE THE POINT OF THE CHOPSTICK TO PRESS THEM IN.

BE CAREFUL. TAKE YOUR TIME.

THAT DELICACY IS WHAT MAKES *WAGASHI* BEAUTIFUL.

DAZED

ぽ

NEXT MONTH WE'LL MAKE "*FUJIDANA**."

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GET TO TAKE *WAGASHI* LESSONS AT KOGETSUAN!

IT'S LIKE A DREAM.

I WAS WORRIED AFTER THAT TERRIBLE FIRE...

WE'LL ***DEFINITELY*** BE THERE!

*A pergola with wisteria.

...BUT I'M SO GLAD EVERY-THING'S ALL RIGHT.

WAGASHI CLASSES?

YOU?

I HAVE TROUBLE IMAGINING THAT.

THAT SOUNDS GREAT, THOUGH?

LET ME HELP!

HOW RIDICULOUS.

...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TRYING SOMETHING NEW?

BESIDES, I STILL DON'T OWN THIS PLACE.

WAGASHI CLASSES?

I'M ASHAMED TO KNOW YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING SO DEGRADING.

IT HARDLY BEFITS THE HEAD OF THIS SHOP.

WHAT'S THE POINT IN FINDING HER NOW?

I HEAR YOU'RE ASKING ALL THE *WAGASHI* SHOPS IN THE PREFECTURE IF THEY KNOW ANYTHING.

LISTEN, ABOUT NAO-SAN...

ESPECIALLY WHEN...

...YOU CHOSE TO INHERIT THE SHOP OVER HER?

...HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU INTEND TO LOOK FOR HER?

... SOMEONE MORE IMPORTANT YOU SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT?

!

THAT'S—

DON'T YOU HAVE...

IS THIS FEELING...

LOVE OR HATRED?

DO I WANT TO SEE NAO OR NOT?

EVER SINCE THE DAY SHE DISAPPEARED...

...I'VE BEEN FILLED WITH CONTRADICTING THOUGHTS...

SHIORI!

WHERE ARE YOU, SHIORI?!

...SHE WENT *THERE* AGAIN.

DON'T TELL ME...

ザザザザザザザザ FSSSHH

庵月光

NO ONE'S GOING TO COME TO CLASS TODAY IN THIS RAIN.

SORRY I'M LATE!

SORRY!

S...

ポタ PLIP

ポタ PLIP

...

IT'S A BLOSSOM WITH PRESENCE, CALLED "THE KING OF FLOWERS."

IT ALSO GAVE THE *BOTAMOCHI* ITS NAME, WHICH IS A STAPLE *WAGASHI* THIS TIME OF YEAR.

YES.

WE'RE MAKING PEONY *WAGASHI* TODAY?

I'M SURPRISED YOU TURNED UP, SHIORI-SAN.

EVERYONE CANCELED BECAUSE OF THE RAIN.

True, I almost cried a bunch of times.

OH...

U...

UM...

WHERE ARE THE OTHER STUDENTS TODAY...?

TO THE HEIR TO A TEA SHOP, RIGHT?

YOU SAID YOUR BETROTHAL'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

I'M SO INTO MAKING *WAGASHI* THESE DAYS.

IT'S THE ONE THING I LOOK FORWARD TO.

SO I WANT TO COME BY AS MANY TIMES AS I CAN BEFORE I GET MARRIED.

...THAT THINGS WORKED OUT FOR YOU AS PLANNED.

I'M SO GLAD...

YES...

...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OW!

SCRATCH

…!

I SEE...

...

NEXT WE'RE COLORING THE WHITE BEAN PASTE WITH COLORED POWDER, RIGHT?

OH.

I JUST...

...NICKED MY FINGER WITH MY NAIL.

TSUBAKI-SAN!

TSUBAKI-SAN!

...

YOU'VE COLORED THAT WITH QUITE A LOT OF RED.

SHIORI-SAN.

S-SORRY, SHOULD I NOT HAVE?

I'LL START OVER RIGHT AWAY.

I'M SORR—

SO I THOUGHT BOLDER MIGHT BE BETTER...

I SAW THAT WE'RE PUTTING THEM ON JET-BLACK PLATES TODAY,

OH.

Y...YES, SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.

...AND HELPS ME STAND OUT.

IT LIFTS MY SPIRITS...

UH...?

YOUR *KIMONO* IS ALWAYS RED.

SHIORI-SAN.

DO YOU LIKE RED?

SO MUCH SO,

THAT NO ONE EVER NOTICES I'M THERE...

COMPARED TO THEM, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN DREADFULLY PLAIN.

"STAND OUT"?

THEY'RE BOTH PRETTY AND CHARMING, AND THEY ATTRACT ATTENTION WHEREVER THEY GO.

I HAVE TWO OLDER SISTERS.

PEOPLE WOULD LOOK AT ME PROPERLY.

I THOUGHT IF I DRESSED IN RED...

I EVEN PUT RED PAINT IN MY HAIR ONCE.

I'M SURE YOU THINK SO, TOO.

MY FATHER SAYS I SHOULD STOP BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SUIT ME.

THEY'RE MY FEELINGS, AFTER ALL.

WHY WOULD YOU ASSUME...

...THAT I THINK THAT?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

THIS COLOR GOES WELL WITH THIS PLATE.

...QUITE LIKE IT THIS WAY.

I...

IT'S A PATH FILLED WITH THORNS.

TSUBAKI-SAN...

THAT'S NOT FAIR...

I KNOW.

THIS TIME, I HAVE TO FIND PROPER HAPPINESS...

HE MESSED UP MY LIFE ONCE ALREADY.

...WITH SOMEONE WHO'LL TRULY LOVE ME.

THE HASEYA INN

...LET THIS BOND UNITE US FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

PLEASE...

YOUR KIMONO...

IT'S SUCH A LOVELY COLOR.

THANK YOU.

A SOFT *SAKURA** PINK.

IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL, SHIORI-SAN.

*The Japanese cherry.

OUR DAUGHTER HAS BEEN BLEMISHED WITH A SCAR.

YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO CALL OFF THE ENGAGE-MENT.

YET YOU'VE AGREED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE WEDDING REGARDLESS.

TRULY...

...WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THIS.

PLEASE DON'T WORRY.

BESIDES, I'LL MAKE SURE SHIORI-SAN NEVER HAS TO DO ANYTHING OUT IN PUBLIC.

IT'S FINE.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.

UH...

B-BUT...

ANYWAY, I HEAR SHIORI-SAN IS AN AMAZING COOK.

EVERYONE'S VOICES...

...SOUND SO FAR AWAY.

OH, YES.

WE TAUGHT HER FROM A YOUNG AGE.

THAT'S SOMETHING I DEFINITELY LOOK FORWARD TO.

UM...

...BUT I WANT YOU TO LOOK AFTER THE HOME AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

I PROMISE I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY IN RETURN.

I'M SORRY. THIS MAY SOUND OLD FASHIONED...

BY THE WAY, HOW MUCH LONGER WILL YOU BE ATTENDING THOSE *WAGASHI* CLASSES?

AND I'LL...

...BE HAPPY.

THEN...

...I WON'T TROUBLE MY PARENTS ANYMORE.

SAY IT.

JUST NOD...

...AND SAY, "OF COURSE."

I QUITE LIKE IT THIS WAY.

OO HOSPITAL

TSUBAKI-SAN.

NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY TODAY.

ALL RIGHT.

YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

BIP

BIP

BIP

THERE WERE SOME PEONIES BLOOMING, SO I BROUGHT A FEW ALONG.

LET ME PUT THEM IN THE VASE...

I WONDER WHO CAME BY?

THERE WEREN'T ANY THERE BEFORE.

HOW ODD.

EXCUSE ME.

DID SOMEONE ELSE VISIT TODAY?

TSUBAKI-SAN!

DASH!

NAO!

IS THIS FEELING...

...LOVE...

...OR HATRED?

I...

I CAN'T MARRY YOU.

I'M SORRY.

I JUST DON'T KNOW.

BUT...

...I CAN'T IGNORE THIS DESIRE.

THERE'S SOME-THING...

...I CAN'T GIVE UP ON.

NAO!

CHAPTER 38 *Onto a Path Filled With Thorns*

I'M SORRY.

NO, IT'S FINE.

THUD

OH!

TAXI DROP OFF

DROP

WAS THAT REALLY NAO?

NAO...

IF SO, WHY...?

SAKURA.

A LATE BLOOMING SAKURA...

KANZAN...

SHIORI!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!

HOW MANY TIMES MUST YOU DISHONOR MY NAME?!

SLAP

...

ALL SO *YOU* CAN FIND HAPPINESS!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH EFFORT I PUT INTO THIS ENGAGEMENT?!

WE CAN'T HOPE FOR A BETTER OFFER THAN THIS!

DEAR...

TELL KADOKURA-SAN YOU'LL DEVOTE YOUR LIFE TO HIM!

WE'LL ASK FOR THEIR FORGIVE-NESS.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE.

COME!

YOU'RE ORDERING US NEW KIMONOS?

REALLY, FATHER?!

SHIORI'S ABOUT TO GET MARRIED.

SHE DOESN'T NEED ONE.

DEAR.

WHAT ABOUT SHIORI ...?

I'D LIKE THIS ONE.

THIS ONE, FOR ME!

WE'LL BE CALLING ON IMPORTANT CUSTOMERS FOR NEW YEAR'S.

WEARING OLD *KIMONOS* WOULDN'T DO.

YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT...

...AND I NEVER DOUBTED THOSE WORDS.

"YOU HAVE NO TALENTS TO SPEAK OF...

...SO THE SOONER YOU GET MARRIED, THE BETTER."

BUT...

...I...

PLEASE LET ME BE FREE.

...WANT TO COLOR MY PEONIES RED.

...

IT'S BECAUSE OF *HIM*, ISN'T IT...?

WHAT DO YOU SEE IN HIM?!

HE LEFT YOU DEVASTATED ONCE ALREADY!

WHY?!

GET OUT.

NEVER SET FOOT IN THIS HOUSE AGAIN.

YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING?

I...

I'M SORRY...

SISTERS...

IT WILL GIVE YOU PROTECTION.

NEVER FORGET, SHIORI.

TAKE THIS WITH YOU.

YOU MUST NEVER LET ANYONE TRAMPLE YOUR HONOR.

THIS DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT OUR FAMILY'S BLOOD RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS.

SLAP

Uniform: Kogetsu

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

JUST GET ME THE YOUNG MASTER!

PLEASE, CALM DOWN!

WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, HASEYA-SAMA?

...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU!!

SHE REJECTED IT AND LEFT!

I HEARD THAT SHIORI-SAN'S MOVING FORWARD WITH HER ENGAGEMENT.

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BETROTHAL!

WHY WOULD YOU LEAD SHIORI ALONG NOW, AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE?!

BUT WHY...?

THAT'S WHAT *I* WANT TO KNOW!

...

IT'S JUST LIKE THAT TIME...

WHEN WE RECEIVED AN ENGAGEMENT OFFER FROM THIS SHOP,

I KNEW MARRYING INTO A *WAGASHI* SHOP WOULD BE HARD ON THE BRIDE.

SO I SAID NO, BUT SHIORI INSISTED ON TAKING THE OFFER...

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE EVER MADE A REQUEST LIKE THAT.

THAT'S WHY...

...I RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

AND GAVE HER FACE THAT SCAR...

BUT THEN...

...YOU HUMILIATED HER AT THE WEDDING, OF ALL THINGS.

...!

YOU TELL SHIORI...

...SHE'S NEVER TO USE THE HASEYA NAME, EVER AGAIN!

THOK

TSUBAKI-SAN!

EEK!

IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME THAT SHE'D BE THERE.

SO I DIDN'T STOP TO CHECK.

...

HMM. MAYBE THAT WAS SHIORI-SAN, AFTER ALL.

TWO NIGHTS AGO, I THOUGHT I SAW HER...

...WALKING ALONG THE ASANO RIVER WITH A SUITCASE IN HAND.

...

I SEE.

A LIVE-IN POSITION?

Sign: Ontendo

SORRY, BUT WE ONLY HIRE PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCE.

HMM...

NO WORK HISTORY, HUH?

WE DON'T TAKE WOMEN.

IF YOU COULD COMMUTE...

OUCH!

DON'T THINK SO, SORRY.

WE'RE NOT LOOKING TO HIRE.

ACHOO!

RUSTLE
ガサ
ガサ
RUSTLE

ズズッ
:SST

BRRRR
ううう

THE NIGHTS ARE STILL PRETTY COLD...

SSH...

PEONY

200g
10g
14g

MIX TOGETHER

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

SWIP!!!

N...

!

TH...!

THIEF!

...!

GIVE IT!

NO!

PLEASE!

ANYTHING BUT THAT!

NOT THE *WAGASHI* NOTES!

YOU LITTLE ...!

WHAM

WANT ME TO SNAP YOUR FINGERS?

KPK KPK

UM...

UH...

I'M SORRY,

FOR CAUSING SUCH CONCERN.

THOSE *WAGASHI* NOTES...

緑茶

HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN?

緑茶

Green Tea

A RICH AROMA

THEY'RE THE ONES I MADE TO HAND OUT FOR MY CLASSES.

WHY DID YOU WANT TO SAVE THEM...?

YES.

THANK YOU.

A CERAMICS PAINTING SHOW?

...

CHAPTER 4

CHAPTER 7

YOU'RE STILL TAKING THOSE CLASSES?

YOU SHOULD STOP WASTING YOUR TIME.

NO ONE'S STOPPING TO LOOK.

THESE *TSUBAKI**...

WHY DON'T THEY HAVE LEAVES?

*The Japanese camellia.

WITHOUT LEAVES, THEY'RE "FALLEN *TSUBAKI*."

THAT'S CONSIDERED A BAD OMEN BECAUSE THE ENTIRE FLOWER FALLS AT ONCE,

LIKE A DECAPITATED HEAD.

OH...

BUT...

THERE'S A DIFFERENT THEORY...

THAT PEOPLE IN POWER THOUGHT *TSUBAKI* WERE SO BEAUTIFUL THAT THEY SPREAD BAD RUMORS TO KEEP THE BLOSSOMS TO THEMSELVES...

I LIKE THAT THEORY BETTER...

BECAUSE THEY'RE SO BEAUTIFUL, YOU KNOW...?

NO ONE ELSE EVER EVEN NOTICED...

YOU'RE VERY UNUSUAL.

THAT'S INTERESTING.

I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS.

I QUITE LIKE IT.

SHIORI-SAN?

LET ME WORK AT KOGETSUAN.

PLEASE.

...TO GIVE UP ON MYSELF ANYMORE.

I DON'T WANT...

…

I WOULD BE GRATEFUL JUST TO HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD!

WE'RE STILL REBUILDING THE PLACE, SO THE ROOMS ARE ALL CRAMPED.

IT WON'T BE EASY WORKING FOR US.

I'M AN EARLY RISER ANYWAY. AND I'LL PUT ON MUSCLE!

SOME PEOPLE HURT THEIR BACKS.

THE DAY STARTS AT FOUR O'CLOCK AND A LOT OF THE WORK IS PHYSICAL.

IF I THINK YOU DON'T HAVE THE KNACK FOR IT, I'LL MAKE YOU LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.

YOU MEAN...

Y...

I...

PLOP

I PROMISE I'LL WORK MY HEART OUT.

I'M PRETTY SURE YOU WON'T LAST A MONTH.

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S A PATH FILLED WITH THORNS.

I WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE.

THE MOON'S COMING OUT.

TO DO THAT...

...KEEP MY FEELINGS A SECRET.

...I HAVE TO...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MA'AM.

I LET MY HAND SLIP.

Sign: Kogetsuan

THERE CAN'T BE SO MUCH AS A SPECK OF DUST.

I HAVE TO MAKE IT SPOTLESS.

GO! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

BECAUSE THIS ROOM...

...IS FOR A VERY SPECIAL GIRL.

Something's Wrong With Us

CHAPTER 39 *The Third Autumn*

ALL RIGHT.

I THINK I'LL TAKE...

THE "HARVEST MOON" AND THE "*KIKYO**."

*Balloon flower

NODA-SAMA,

YOUR LIPSTICK IS A VERY PRETTY COLOR.

A DEEP RED...

IT SUITS YOU SO WELL.

HOW NICE OF YOU.

YOU REALLY HAVE AN EYE FOR DETAIL.

MY HUSBAND SAYS IT'S TOO GAUDY.

WHAT? BUT IT'S LOVELY.

WOULD YOU TELL HIM SO FOR ME?

OF COURSE! I'D TELL HIM RIGHT NOW.

HELLO!

SHIORI-SAN! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS!

IT'S THE THIRD AUTUMN...

...SINCE THE FIRE AT KOGETSUAN.

WELCOME TO KOGETSUAN!

庵月光

ARE CUSTOMERS COMING BECAUSE OF SHIORI-SAN?

Sign: Kogetsuan

THAT'S VERY PROMISING.

Uniform: Kogetsu

YES.

THEY LOVE HER CANDID WAY OF LISTENING.

SHE'S BEEN GAINING SOME FANS.

HER "WELCOME TO KOGETSUAN" WAS CLUMSY AT FIRST...

...BUT NOW SHE'S THE STAR OF THE SHOP.

BY THE WAY...

...FOR THE SAMIDARETEI SELECTION?

...WHAT ABOUT THE SWEETS...

CAN I ASK YOU TO SHAPE THE REST OF THESE?

I'M SORRY, YAMAGUCHI-SAN.

OH, SURE.

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE KOWAKAI TEA CEREMONY.

TSUBAKI-SAN...

LATELY...

...HE HASN'T BEEN MAKING MANY OF THE SHOP'S SWEETS.

I'LL LEAVE THOSE UP TO YOU TOO, YAMAGUCHI-SAN.

...

Uniform: Kogetsu

THE SHOP IS CLOSED SO I'VE COME TO HELP.

HELLO, EVERYONE.

HE'S TAKEN OVER ALL OF THE OLD MASTER'S DUTIES.

HE'S BUSIER THAN EVER BEFORE.

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

...

OH...
BUT...
IT'S FINE.
GO REST FOR THE DAY.
THESE NEED TO BE WASHED, RIGHT?
SO DON'T TAKE IT FROM ME, OKAY?
THIS IS MY JOB.
TUNK
ARE YOU PICKING ON HER, JOJIMA?
WHAT? NO.
IF YOU'RE SURE, THEN.
I...
I SEE.

SWISH SWISH

JUST DO YOUR BEST.

IT'S TOUGH GETTING EVERYONE TO ACCEPT ME...

...THE KITCHEN SHOULD BE FOR CONFECTIONERS ONLY.

I JUST THINK...

...

...AND DELIGHT THEM.

MY WORDS ACTUALLY RESONATE WITH CUSTOMERS...

WORKING AT KOGETSUAN IS SO FUN.

PLUS...

EVERY DAY IS LIKE A DREAM.

I NEVER KNEW SUCH A THING WAS POSSIBLE.

SHIORI-SAN, CAN YOU SPARE A MOMENT?

YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM, DEAR.

MY, LOOK HOW RAGGED YOUR NAILS ARE.

...I CAN DO THIS MYSELF.

U... UM, MA'AM ...

I'M SORRY.

...TO DO THIS FOR MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

IT'S... ...ALWAYS BEEN MY DREAM...

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE YOU CAME HERE. IS THERE REALLY NOTHING BETWEEN YOU AND TSUBAKI-SAN?

OH...

BUT I'M NOT...

...

!!

MA'AM!!

SSH...

IN THAT CASE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A SEDUCTIVE SMELL THAT CAPTIVATES MEN.

SOMETIMES, YOU HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

IF YOU WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE FOREVER...

YOU'RE VERY ATTRACTIVE, SHIORI-SAN...

I HAVE TO MAKE MY MOVE.

TSUBAKI-SAN'S NAILS...

...ARE MUCH MORE RAGGED.

BUT HE'S BEEN SO BUSY LATELY.

HE ONLY EVER SHOWS HIS DIGNIFIED SIDE.

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S BEEN MAKING SWEETS, EITHER.

FWMP

7.

BLINK

VWIP

GASP

はっ

PLEASE, KEEP RESTING.

I FINISHED CLEANING UP.

OH, DON'T WORRY.

SHIORI-SAN.

IT'S TEN O' CLOCK...

OH... I'M SORRY I DIDN'T ASK.

I NOTICED A LOOSE THREAD...

THAT KIMONO...

YOUR KIMONOS ARE ALL SO NICE.

THE EARLIER YOU FIX IT,

THE LONGER YOU CAN WEAR IT.

I CAN'T POSSIBLY MAKE A MOVE. NO WAY!

AHHHH.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GO TO BED, TSUBAKI-SAN.

OH.

I'LL STAY HERE FOR A LITTLE LONGER.

...NO.

...

WHISH

IT'S BEEN...

...THREE YEARS ALREADY, HUH...?

WHAT IS NAO UP TO...?

IN A QUIET TOWN AWAY FROM THE CROWDS...

...THERE'S A SMALL WAGASHI SHOP.

SHE'S MAKING SWEETS THERE EVERY DAY.

EVERYDAY...

...FULL OF JOY.

WHENEVER I IMAGINE WHERE SHE MIGHT BE NOW...

...THE SAME IMAGE ALWAYS COMES TO MIND...

SHE MUST BE HAPPY WHERE SHE IS.

FINALLY RID OF THIS TRIVIAL LITTLE WORLD...

...FREE TO MAKE SWEETS AS SHE LIKES.

THREE YEARS...

THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME...

...TO PUT IT ALL BEHIND HER.

YOU'RE HAPPY WHERE YOU ARE, RIGHT?

EVER SINCE THAT DAY WHEN I WAS SIX...

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TRAPPED IN THE PAST.

BUT SHE MUST HAVE MOVED ON BY NOW.

庵月光

Sign: Kogetsuan

YOU?

YES, TO CHECK ON THE OLD MASTER...

I'M GOING ON AN ERRAND TO SHIRA-FUJIYA-SAN.

SEE YOU LATER.

OH.

ARE YOU GOING OUT, TOO, TSUBAKI-SAN?

OH.

AS AN ERRAND. SURE...

HUH...?

SHIORI-SAN.

NOT LIKE THAT.

WILL YOU CHOOSE A NEW KIMONO FOR ME SOMETIME?

WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER, FOR ONCE?

ALL ALONG THIS ROAD,

THERE IS NOT A SOUL ABOUT,

SUCH WORDS...

THIS LATE AUTUMN'S EVE.

Sign: Shirafujiya

白藤屋

THANK YOU FOR COMING ALL THIS WAY.

MAY OUR WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP CONTINUE.

...WOULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED TO ME BEFORE.

WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?

WOULDN'T THAT BE...

...A DA-

MY HEAD'S STILL IN THE CLOUDS.

ぽー

DAZED

かBLUSHまう

A DRAGONFLY...!

IS IT OKAY...

...

...TO GET MY HOPES UP?

GASP

PSSSHH

W-WAIT, I'M GETTING ON!

HEY!

WHUMP

EXCUSE ME.

ARE YOU THE YOUNG MASTER OF KOGETSUAN?

Sign: Kogetsuan

I AM.

WHO ARE YOU?

HI.

WEEKLY HIKARI
DESK EDITOR
JUNICHI TAKAHASHI

I'M A MAGAZINE JOURNALIST. THE NAME'S TAKAHASHI.

"JOURNALIST"...?

I'M SO SORRY.

I'M SORRY.

WHAT'S GONE IS GONE.

IT GOT AWAY—!

WAAAAH, MY DRAGON-FLY—!

THIS IS MY FAULT...

WHAT DO I DO?

HEY THERE.

HOW ABOUT THIS INSTEAD?

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

ISN'T THAT NICE?

DRAGON-FLIES!

EAT IT WHEN YOU GET HOME.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

IT'S NOT RED, BUT I CAN TELL IT'S THE AUTUMN SKY...

WHAT DELICATE COLORS...

IS IT KONASHI...?

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE FIRE?

WAIT.

IT CAN'T BE.

I DON'T IMAGINE THAT'S WORTH AN ARTICLE.

A CANDLE FELL OVER DURING THE TEA GATHERING.

THERE'S ANOTHER THING I WANT TO INVESTIGATE WHILE I'M AT IT.

YES.

"WHAT CAUSED THE FIRE AT THE HISTORIC WAGASHI SHOP?"

THAT'S THE HEADLINE I WANT FOR THIS ARTICLE.

I RECEIVED A TIP THAT AN INVESTIGATION...

WHAT ...?

THE INCIDENT FROM EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO...

...MIGHT UNCOVER SOME INTERESTING THINGS.

I HEAR IT GOT QUITE A LOT OF ATTENTION AT THE TIME.

WHY...

...DID I GRAB ON TO THIS ARM?

WHOOSH

...SHE'S...

WHEN...

...THE ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD
I NEVER WANTED TO SEE AGAIN.

Something's Wrong With Us

CHAPTER 40 *Hanagasumi*

SHIORI...

...SAN...?

I COULDN'T HELP IT.

HERE YOU ARE.

I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF FROM GRABBING HER ARM...

...

I'M SORRY.

U-UM...

FOR KEEPING YOU LIKE THIS...

WHAT A SURPRISE. REALLY,

I NEVER EXPECTED TO RUN INTO YOU THERE.

I'M GLAD YOU SEEM TO BE DOING WELL.

Y...

YOU TOO, NAO-SAN.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HER...

...IN THREE YEARS.

...

UM.

NAO-SAN...

SHE SEEMS SO DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.

I FINALLY SET UP MY OWN SHOP THREE MONTHS AGO...

...BACK HERE IN KANAZAWA.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

NAO-SAN, UH...

I WAS IN TOKYO.

I REALLY WANTED TO EXPAND MY KNOWLEDGE OF WAGASHI,

AND A SHOP IN TOKYO KINDLY LET ME TRAIN THERE.

TOKYO?

IN KANAZAWA CITY, RIGHT?

IT'S ON THE OUTSKIRTS, THOUGH.

I- I SEE.

WOW... YOUR OWN SHOP!

AND YOU, SHIORI-SAN?

HOW ARE YOU DOING THESE DAYS?

I THOUGHT I HEARD YOU WERE GETTING MARRIED...

OH...

THAT FELL THROUGH... WELL...

AND NOW, UH...

UH-HUH?

...

I'M ACTUALLY WORKING AT KOGETSUAN.

WHAT?! AT KOGETSUAN?!

Y... YES...

REALLY?!

YES.

UM, BUT...

I SEE!

...THE CUSTOMERS MUST BE DELIGHTED.

WITH YOU IN THE SHOP...

IT'S LIKE SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT TSUBAKI-SAN ANYMORE...

DO YOU WANT TO ORDER ANYTHING ELSE?

HOW CAN NAO-SAN SMILE LIKE THAT?

WHY?

ぎゅっ
CLENCH

...

WHY?

WHY WOULD YOU...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.

BUT...

YOUR SHOP...

IF IT'S IN KANAZAWA, IT'S CLOSE TO KOGETSUAN, ISN'T IT?

D...

DOESN'T THAT BOTHER YOU?

TO HAVE TO COMPETE FOR CUSTOM-ERS...?

BUT...!

HUH ...?

"NEW MOON."

...

NO, IT DOESN'T.

IT'S JUST...

I REMEMBER TAKING YOKAN WITH THAT NAME THERE ONCE...

KOGETSUAN TODAY...

IS EXACTLY LIKE THAT.

WAGASHI ...

IS A DELICATE ART, FROM THE SHAPE OF A FLOWER DOWN TO A SINGLE LEAF VEIN.

IT'S A MANUAL CRAFT THAT REQUIRES EXPERIENCED SENSES.

THE SAME RECIPE CAN HAVE DIFFERENT RESULTS, DEPENDING ON THE CONFECTIONER.

THE SLIGHTEST ABERRATION RESULTS IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PRODUCT.

IN THE DARK, LOST AND BLIND.

TSUBAKI-SAN'S HARDLY MAKING ANY OF THE *WAGASHI*, RIGHT?

THESE DAYS...

A SHOP SHOULD SELL THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, TASTIEST SWEETS IT CAN.

IT CAN MAKE BETTER SWEETS, BUT IT WON'T.

KOGETSUAN THINKS ITS NAME IS ENOUGH TO FOOL ITS CUSTOMERS.

WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT?

TH...

THAT'S BE-CAUSE ...

AND HE'S BUSY CALLING ON IMPORTANT CUSTOMERS...

HE HAS TO KEEP THE BOOKS AS THE ACTING OWNER,

I HARDLY THINK...

...I WOULD LOSE TO A SHOP LIKE THAT.

FIL

CLATTER

YOU'RE WRONG.

KOGET-SUAN IS A RESPECT-ABLE...

...HONO-RABLE SHOP.

...!

I'LL LEAVE THIS FOR THE BILL.

AN "HON-ORABLE SHOP"...

ALL THIS TIME...

...YOUR LOVE FOR HIM HAS NEVER FADED.

YOU AMAZE ME...

SHIORI-SAN...

TSUBAKI-SAN.

PLIP

ポツ

PLIP

ポツ

FSSSHHH

ザアアア

YAMA-GUCHI-SAN.

WAS THAT A CUSTOMER I HEARD?

NO...

ABOUT THE VISIT TO SAMIDARETEI THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW...

WILL YOU BE COMING AS WELL?

YES, OF COURSE.

OH, GOOD.

...

THE WEEKLY HIKARI

DESK EDITOR

JUNICHI TAKAHASHI

EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO...

...KOGETSUAN'S YOUNG MASTER DIED FROM A STAB WOUND.

RUMOR HAS IT HE WAS SEEING A WOMAN ON THE SIDE.

IF THAT WERE TRUE...

...I THINK IT WOULD MAKE FOR A PRETTY THRILLING ARTICLE.

INFURIATED, HIS WIFE, THE PROPRIETRESS...

...THRUST A KNIFE IN HER HUSBAND.

...IF YOU'VE INVESTIGATED IT THAT MUCH, I'M SURE YOU ALREADY KNOW.

THE PROPRIETRESS HAS AN ALIBI.

YES, THE WOMAN CONFEC-TIONER.

BUT WHAT IF THAT WAS A MISTAKE?

THERE WAS A PROPER SUSPECT IN THAT INCIDENT.

I'LL BE BACK.

...WHY?

WHY IS THIS BEING DREDGED UP NOW?

THAT'S RIGHT.

THE PROPRIETRESS DIDN'T GO TO FATHER'S ROOM THAT NIGHT.

I KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE.

THAT WAS SO GOOD!

WHO THOUGHT COFFEE WOULD GO SO WELL WITH *WAGASHI*?

Sign: Hanagasumi

WE HAVE TO TRY THE OTHER SWEETS, TOO.

LET'S COME BACK SOME-TIME.

FSSHHH

GLUP ゴポ

ゴポ GLUP

KER-CHANK

カリ

チャ

N...NAO-CHAN?!

NAO-CHAN.

YOU'RE AWFULLY LA—

TAKIGAWA-SAN.

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?!

YOU'RE DRENCHED!

YOU SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A TAXI!!

I...

...RAN INTO SHIORI-SAN.

NAO-CHAN, DID YOU—

IT WAS SO UNEXPECTED, I WAS CAUGHT OFF GUARD...

AND I MAY HAVE SAID MORE THAN I SHOULD HAVE.

BUT IT'S OKAY.

I DOUBT SHIORI-SAN WILL TELL TSUBAKI SHE MET ME.

SCRUNCH
キュ…

TAKIGAWA-SAN?

HUH?

YOU'RE NOT CRYING, NAO-CHAN.

なでて STROKE

AWW.

なでて STROKE

なでて STROKE

I WAS SO SURE THIS WAS MY CHANCE TO CONSOLE YOU.

COME ON.

YOU ALWAYS TREAT ME LIKE A KID.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE...

SHOULD KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT EVERYTHING.

THERE'S NO WAY I'D CRY.

...

I WON'T CRY.

NOT UNTIL...

THREE DAYS LATER

... SHE MAKES HER DREAM COME TRUE, HUH?

Sign: Kogetsuan

SURE!

SHIORI-SAN.

WILL YOU PUT AWAY THE SWEETS BOXES?

WHY DON'T WE GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?

THAT I SAW NAO-SAN.

I HAVE TO TELL TSUBAKI-SAN...

BUT...

HE HASN'T COME BACK FROM SAMIDARETEI YET.

I'M SCARED...

...THAT IF I TELL HIM, I'LL LOSE EVERYTHING...

CLENCH

キュ

THEN I GUESS I WON'T HAVE TIME TO TELL HIM TODAY.

WHEW

THEY PROBABLY CHOSE US, SO I FIGURE HE STAYED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS.

YUP.

SAMI-DARETEI?

TO HEAR THE RESULTS OF THE SELECTION?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, TSUBAKI-SAN?!

THEY DIDN'T CHOOSE US?!

AND YOU JUST ACCEPTED THAT AND CAME HOME?!

I GUESS HE *IS* BACK.

WHAT WILL OUR REGULARS THINK...

...WHEN THEY FIND OUT WE WERE REJECTED?

I'M SORRY, MY SWEETS WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH...

THEY APPARENTLY CHOSE A SHOP CALLED "HANAGA-SUMI"...

IN THE SIXTY YEARS SINCE THEY ESTABLISHED THAT TEA HOUSE,

THEY HAVE *ALWAYS* CHOSEN OUR SWEETS.

THEY HAVEN'T DECIDED ON THE SWEETS FOR THEIR *SPRING ENYUKAI**.

BUT...

THERE'S A A SELECTION FOR THE EVENT NEXT WEEK.

*An event held in a garden.

I'LL HAVE THEM RETHINK THEIR DECISION!

THIS HAS TO BE A MISTAKE!

THEY'VE MADE UP THEIR MINDS.

I'LL BE THE ONE...

...TO MAKE THOSE SWEETS.

BEEP

HELLO?

THERE'S SOMETHING I REFUSE TO GIVE UP.

R

R

R

R

Sign: Hanagasumi

FOR THE *SPRING ENYUKAI*?

YES.

OF COURSE I'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE.

...I SEE.

...OH?

THE YOUNG MASTER FROM KOGETSUAN?

ANYONE ELSE MIGHT THINK IT'S TRIVIAL.

OKAY.

THE THEME...

IS "THE MOON"...?

...TO ME, IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR.

PLEASE TELL THEM I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

BUT...

Something's Wrong With Us

CHAPTER 41 The Selection

THERE'S A PARTICULAR SWEET I WANT TO MAKE.

THE *ENYUKAI* SELECTION IS A HUGE CHANCE FOR ME.

ARE YOU STILL AT IT, NAO-CHAN?

IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT.

YOU DON'T INTEND TO GIVE UP, HUH?

UNTIL YOU TAKE OVER KOGETSUAN AND MAKE IT YOURS.

I'M GOING TO MAKE KOGETSUAN...

SELL THE SWEETS MOMMA CREATED.

THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED THAT DAY.

THIS TIME, NO ONE'S GETTING IN MY WAY.

WAGASHI NOTES

"MIRROR IN THE SKY."

IT REPRESENTS A CLEAR AUTUMN MOON.

庵月光

Sign: Kogetsuan

IT'S VERY "YOU," TSUBAKI-SAN.

HOW DELICATE...

THE LINES OF THE *SUSUKI* GRASS ARE REMARKABLE.

IT'S DEFINITELY BEAUTIFUL...

...BUT...

...I FEEL LIKE IT'S NOT QUITE ENOUGH TO COMPETE IN THE SELECTION, LIKE IT'S...

U...

UM...

...

A SUBTLY COLORED SWEET...

MIGHT BE LOST ON THEM.

I THINK SAMIDARETEI'S INDIVIDUAL *WAGASHI* PLATES WERE MADE OF WHITE PORCELAIN.

...

PLUS...

...

...

THE RAIN'S LET UP.

I'M FINE.

YOU GO AHEAD AND SLEEP, SHIORI-SAN.

TSUBAKI-SAN.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH?

カリ
CLANK

SLIP

THANK YOU.

COULD YOU PICK IT UP FOR ME?

THAT TRIANGLE STICK.

SHIORI-SAN, I'M SORRY.

...

TSU BAKI-SAN, THIS SWEET...

IT'S *KUMEI.*

TSU...

Sign: Kogetsuan

THE PEOPLE OF THE PAST DIDN'T LOOK STRAIGHT AT THE MOON.

THEY ENJOYED ITS REFLECTION IN PONDS OR IN THEIR SAKE CUPS.

IN DAYS OF OLD...

THE HARVEST MOON WASN'T SOMETHING PEOPLE GAZED UP AT.

KUMEI.*

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT...

...CHERISHED BY PEOPLE OF ANTIQUITY.

I CALL IT "TWO MOONS."

*The moon's reflection on clear water.

I'M SURE THIS WILL IMPRESS THE JUDGES.

I SEE. THE MOON IS MADE OF *KANTEN* JELLY.

IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL IT TAKES MY BREATH AWAY.

THE PATTERN OF THE WATER'S SURFACE IS EXQUISITE... ONLY YOU COULD HAVE MADE THIS, TSUBAKI-SAN.

...

OF COURSE!

WE NEED SIX BY TOMORROW!

YAMAGUCHI-SAN, WILL YOU HELP ME?

HE MAKES SUCH INCREDIBLE THINGS...

SO WHY DOESN'T HE MAKE MORE FOR THE SHOP?

I'M SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING.

OH, NO.

I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE, SIR.

HOW ARE THINGS AT THE CITY COUNCIL?

THE SAME OLD SQUABBLING, AS USUAL.

I JUST HAPPENED TO HEAR, SIR...

...THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THE JUDGES FOR THE SAMIDARETEI SELECTION.

SIR, PLEASE.

THESE ARE JUST SWEETS, NOTHING MORE.

I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THIS...

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.

I HAVE KOGETSUAN'S BEST INTERESTS AT HEART, MADAM PROPRIETRESS.

THE DAY OF THE SELECTION.

SAMI-DARETEI.

OF THE SWEETS PRESENTED FROM EACH SHOP.

AFTER THIS, WE WILL HAVE THE JUDGES DO A BLIND TASTE TEST...

KOGE-TSUAN'S *WAGASHI*...

...AS PROMISED, THANK YOU.

CUSTOM DICTATES THAT THE SHOP WITH THE MOST VOTES WILL MAKE THE SWEETS FOR THE *SPRING ENYUKAI*.

WE WILL NOTIFY YOU OF THE RESULTS SHORTLY.

BY THE WAY...

WE UNDER-STAND.

...

I SEE.

IT IS.

IS IT PARTICIPATING AS WELL?

WHAT ABOUT THAT SHOP CALLED HANAGASUMI?

PLEASE HAND IN YOUR SWEETS AT THE ROOM IN THE BACK.

HANAGASUMI...

PLEASE EXCUSE US.

NOW WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESULTS.

HANAGASUMI...

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF SWEETS THEY MAKE...?

TSUBAKI-SAN?

!

I NEED TO MAKE A CALL ON THE TEA HOUSE, SO PLEASE GO BACK WITHOUT ME.

...I'M SORRY, YAMAGUCHI-SAN.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

LET US BEGIN THE SELECTION.

...!

THE CHOICE OF "*SHIGURE*" IS NICE, AS WELL.

THE MOON LOOKS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AFTER THE RAIN.

IT'S VERY EVOCATIVE.

I COULD LOOK AT IT FOREVER.

A *SHIGURE* SWEET.

HOW BEAUTI-FUL...

HI.

TAKIGAWA-SAN?

YES.

IT'S BEGUN.

DON'T WORRY.

I WANT TO WAIT UNTIL I HEAR THE RESULTS.

I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THAT SWEET.

THIS GARDEN BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...

WHOOSH

...BLOOMING OUT OF SEASON...

SAKURA BLOS-SOMS...

NOW FOR THE NEXT SWEET.

A *DANGO*?

I guess...?

THIS IS...

...AWFULLY SIMPLE.

LET'S JUST TRY IT, SHALL WE?

TSUBAKI.

トロ…

ロロ…

SHF

KURO-MITSU...?

OH, MY.

TSUBAKI...

...FLOATING IN THE NIGHT SKY.

IT'S THE MOON...

THE "STARS" ARE OSMANTHUS PETALS.

IT'S AMAZING.

A SWEET FOR ALL THE SENSES.

IT'S VERY EXCITING.

FASCINATING!

IT'S SWEET OSMAN-THUS.

AND... THIS FLORAL AROMA?

"CLEAR MOON."

THE MOON SHINING IN THE SKY WITH NOT A CLOUD IN SIGHT.

THAT'S HOW I FEEL RIGHT NOW.

IS SOMEONE THERE?

...

I'M THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO KOGETSUAN.

I'M GOING TO PUT AN END TO KOGETSUAN AS IT EXISTS NOW...

...AND I WON'T LET ANYONE GET IN MY WAY.

NOT A CLOUD OF DOUBT IN MY HEART...

...

IS...

...SOMEONE THERE?

HUH...?

WOBBLE

!

A KIMONO?

IS SHE A MEMBER OF THE TEA HOUSE STAFF?

SORRY.

I'M FINE. THIS WILL PASS IN A MOMENT!

VWIP

THERE WILL BE A RED MOON TONIGHT.

WE...

...CAN NEVER ESCAPE THE MOON, NO MATTER WHERE WE GO.

To be continued in Volume 9.

Thank you very much for reading *Something's Wrong With Us* Volume 8.

When I drew Nao with her hair cut in Chapter 1, I knew I wanted to draw her with long hair again. I hoped to save it for when she made her grand reappearance. And now, we're finally at that point!

With the scene set in autumn, I'm glad I was able to give it the right ambiance with all the falling leaves.

By the way, when I came up with Nao's name, I actually decided on the "na" (the character for "seven") in her name first and stuck on the "o" (the character for "*sakura*") afterwards.
There was some special *wagashi* meaning to the number seven...which was why Nao's mom gave her that name. But now I can't remember what that meaning was anymore>< Silly me.

At this point the *sakura* symbolism is so much more important that I'm glad I added that character on.

I see comments saying, "I want Nao to find happiness" a lot, and I've always felt the same way. Wait and see what kind of happiness she'll find in the end.

I hope to see you again in Volume 9

Thank you for your letters—they're so encouraging.
Natsumi Ando
c/o Kodansha BE•LOVE
2-12-21 Otowa, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8001

Thank you so much,
Umesakura-sama, Doi-sama,
Naganawa-sama, Miyaji-sama,
Morizane-sama,
and my editor Chikada-sama.

THIS TIME, NO ONE'S GETTING IN MY WAY.

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE THREE YEARS THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING!

WHERE DID NAO GO AFTER THE FIRE?

A story of love, fate, and *wagashi*
Something's Wrong With Us

9

Natsumi Ando

WAGASHI NOTES

I'M GOING TO TAKE OVER KOGETSUAN.

THAT'S WHAT I DECIDED THAT DAY.

VOLUME 9

SOME-THING IS WRONG WITH TSUBAKI ...

!

...AND IT SHAKES NAO'S VOW OF REVENGE.

Next Volume Preview

Coming soon!

Translation Notes

Kaga bou hojicha, cover flap
A special type of hojicha (roasted tea) from the Kanazawa region made by roasting tea stems instead of the leaves. It has a toasty aroma that is great as tea but has also been popular in recent years as an ingredient for sweets.

wagashi, cover flap
Traditional Japanese confections.

kinton, page 6
Also the name of a popular type of *wagashi,* kinton are tiny strands of colored bean paste made by pressing the paste through a sieve to create a "fuzzy" appearance.

botamochi, page 13
A ball of mixed glutinous and non-glutinous rice covered in a layer of bean paste. The name is derived from the botan peony.

betrothal, page 14
Traditionally when two people get engaged, the families hold a formal betrothal ceremony where they meet to dine together and exchange gifts, often in the form of money. This makes the engagement official.

Tsubaki-san, page 74
In very formal households like the Takatsuki family, the mother will often address her children with the "-san" honorific. "-san" is akin to "Mr., Ms., Mx." etc.

All along this road, there is not a soul about, this late autumn's eve., page 85
The practice of splashing water onto the pavement when the weather gets hot, usually right outside of the front door. It not only cools the area down, but also aims to purify the space out of consideration to visitors.

konashi, page 90
Although similar in appearance to nerikiri used in jo-namagashi, konashi adds flour to the white bean paste and rice flour, and must be steamed before handling. Like nerikiri, it can be colored and shaped as desired into seasonal motifs, but has a slightly chewier texture. It is more prevalent in west Japan.

red autumn sky, page 90
A red sunset with tall *susuki* grass and dragonflies is an iconic image of autumn in Japan.

yokan, page 104
A smooth, jellied sweet made of bean paste and agar. The most common type is made of red bean paste and is a very dark (almost black) brown. Nao brought it as a gift when she ruined Tsubaki and Shiori's wedding in Volume 1, as a message to say that Kogetsuan was nothing special.

susuki grass, page 129
A tall grass species with brush-like ends that turn golden in the autumn. They are a seasonal icon used as motifs and in poetry.

kanten, page 139
A jelly made with an algae-based coagulant called agar. It has a higher melting point than gelatin and holds its shape better.

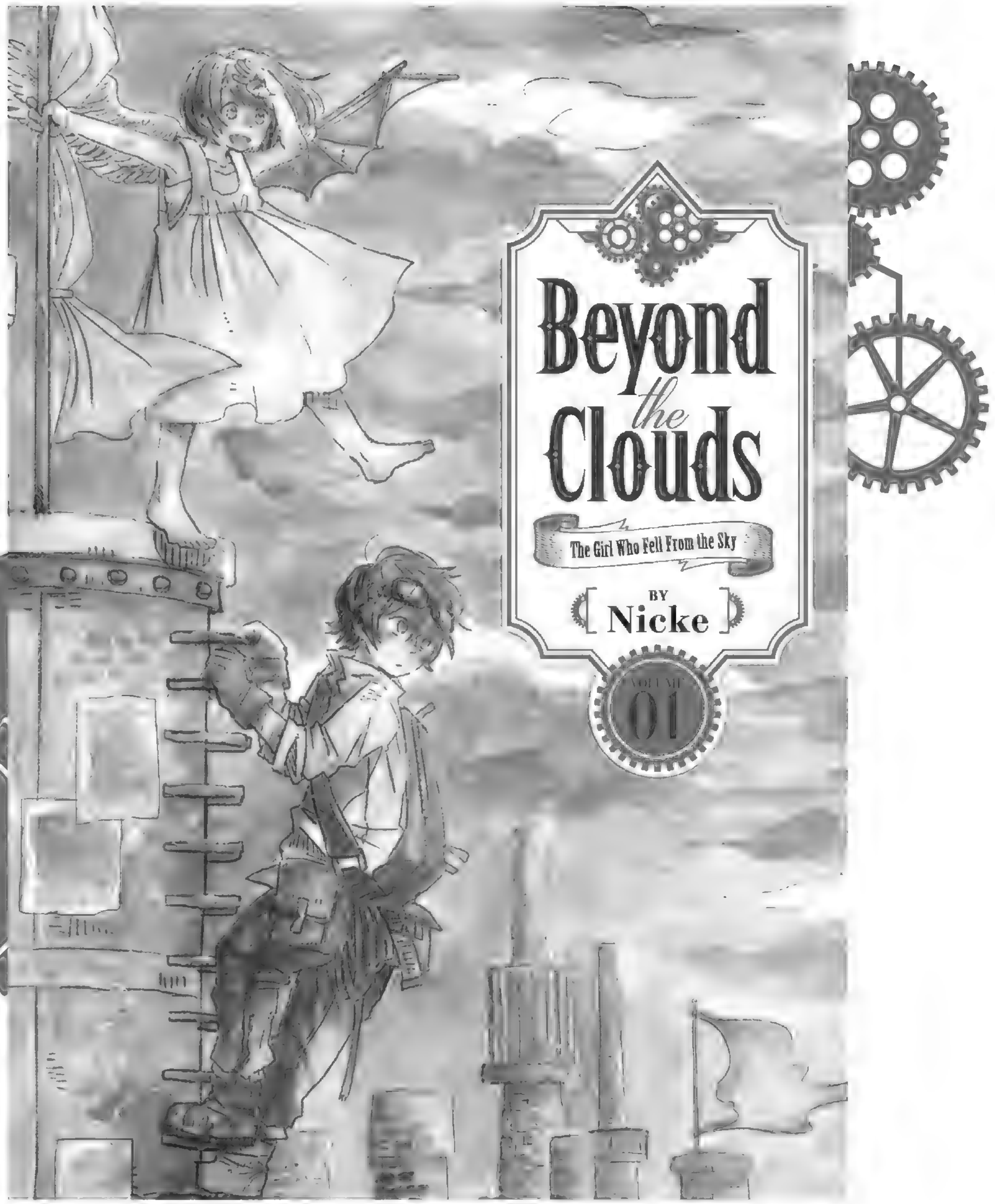
shigure, page 143
A kind of steamed cake made from smooth bean paste mixed with rice flour and other ingredients. It has a crumbly texture to it. Shigure refers to "a drizzle of rain in late autumn/early winter."

dango, page 146
A mochi rice dumpling shaped into a little ball.

kuromitsu, page 147
A syrup made from black sugar that is similar to molasses but is less thick and has a milder flavor.

sweet osmanthus, page 148
A tree with tiny orange flowers that bloom for a short time in autumn. The flowers have a sweet and very pleasant aroma.

Young characters and steampunk setting, like *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Battle Angel Alita*



Beyond the Clouds © 2018 Nicke / Ki-oon

A boy with a talent for machines and a mysterious girl whose wings he's fixed will take you beyond the clouds! In the tradition of the high-flying, resonant adventure stories of Studio Ghibli comes a gorgeous tale about the longing of young hearts for adventure and friendship!

Knight of the Ice ©Yayoi Ogawa/Kodansha Ltd.

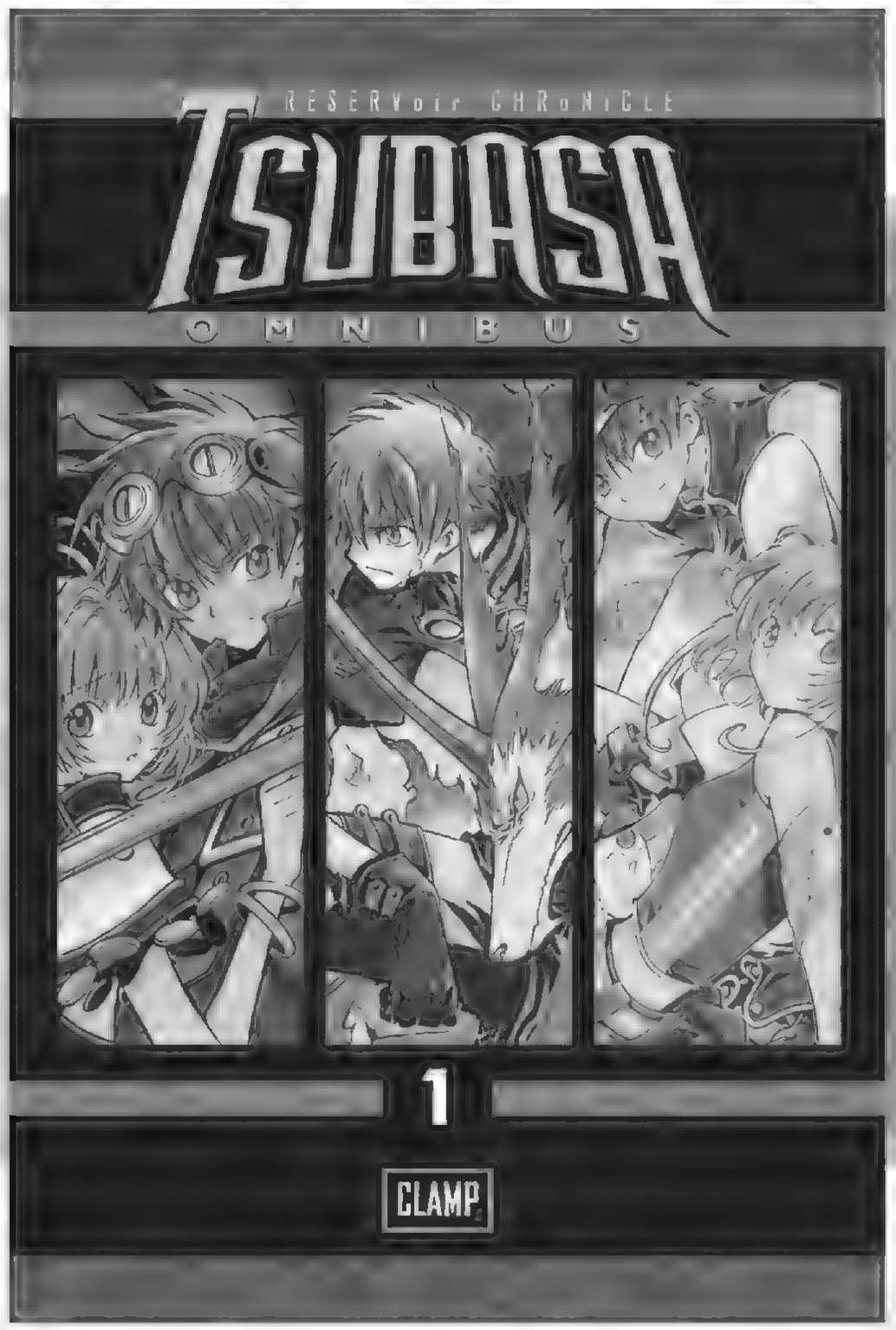
SKATING THRILLS AND ICY CHILLS WITH THIS NEW TINGLY ROMANCE SERIES!

A rom-com on ice, perfect for fans of *Princess Jellyfish* and *Wotakoi*. Kokoro is the talk of the figure-skating world, winning trophies and hearts. But little do they know... he's actually a huge nerd! From the beloved creator of *You're My Pet* (*Tramps Like Us*).

Chitose is a serious young woman, working for the health magazine *SASSO*. Or at least, she would be, if she wasn't constantly getting distracted by her childhood friend, international figure skating star Kokoro Kijinami! In the public eye and on the ice, Kokoro is a gallant, flawless knight, but behind his glittery costumes and breathtaking spins lies a secret: He's actually a hopelessly romantic otaku, who can only land his quad jumps when Chitose is on hand to recite a spell from his favorite magical girl anime!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

The beloved characters from *Cardcaptor Sakura* return in a brand new, reimagined fantasy adventure!



"[*Tsubasa*] takes readers on a fantastic ride that only gets more exhilarating with each successive chapter." —Anime News Network

In the Kingdom of Clow, an archaeological dig unleashes an incredible power, causing Princess Sakura to lose her memories. To save her, her childhood friend Syaoran must follow the orders of the Dimension Witch and travel alongside Kurogane, an unrivaled warrior; Fai, a powerful magician; and Mokona, a curiously strange creature, to retrieve Sakura's dispersed memories!

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

A SMART, NEW ROMANTIC COMEDY FOR FANS OF *SHORTCAKE CAKE* AND *TERRACE HOUSE*!

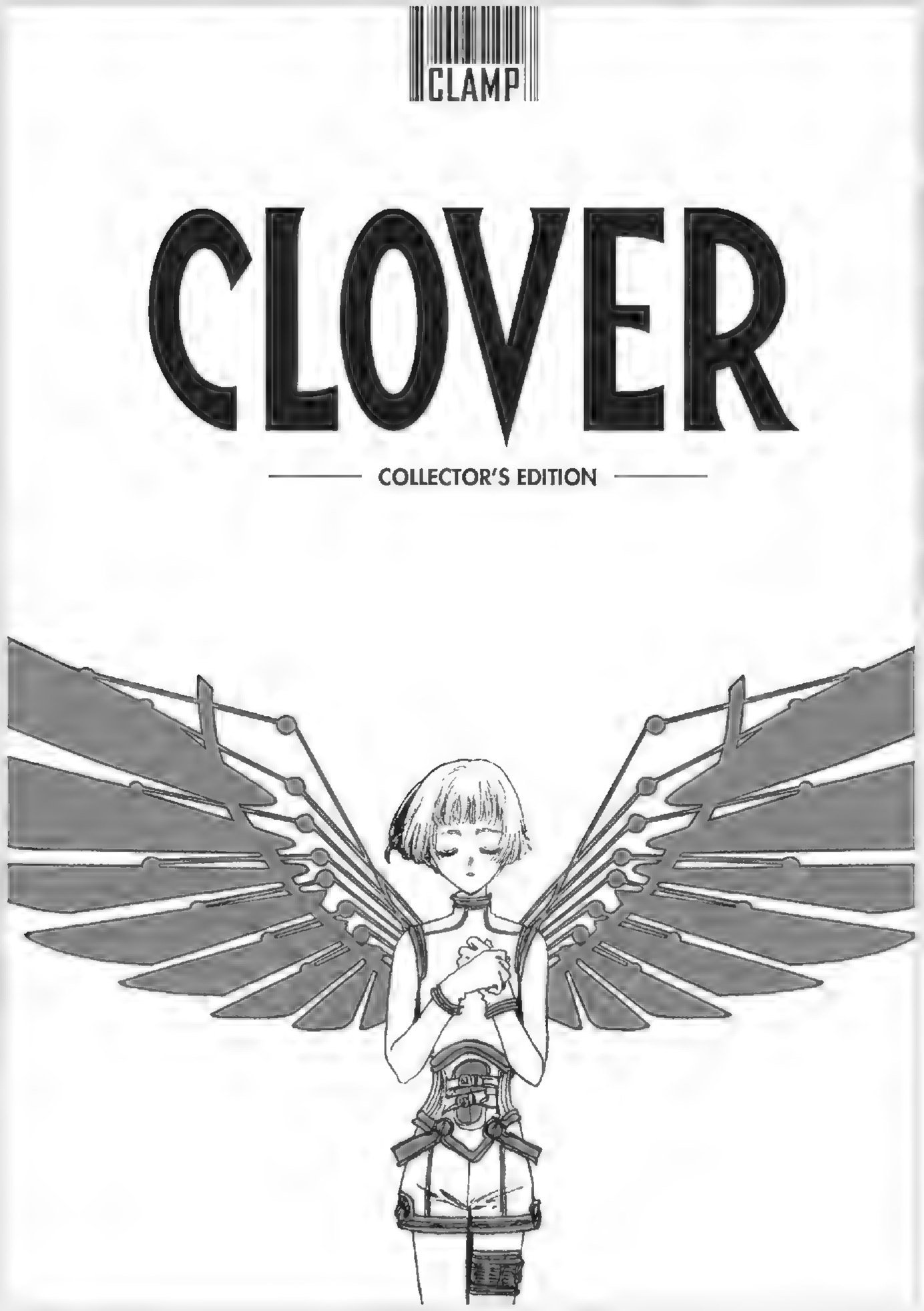
Living-Room Matsunaga-san © Keiko Iwashita / Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

A romance manga starring high school girl Meeko, who learns to live on her own in a boarding house whose living room is home to the odd (but handsome) Matsunaga-san. She begins to adjust to her new life away from her parents, but Meeko soon learns that no matter how far away from home she is, she's still a young girl at heart — especially when she finds herself falling for Matsunaga-san.

The art-deco cyberpunk classic from the creators of *xxxHOLiC* and *Cardcaptor Sakura*!

"Starred Review. This experimental sci-fi work from CLAMP reads like a romantic version of *AKIRA*."
—Publishers Weekly



Su was born into a bleak future, where the government keeps tight control over children with magical powers—codenamed "Clovers." With Su being the only "four-leaf" Clover in the world, she has been kept isolated nearly her whole life. Can ex-military agent Kazuhiko deliver her to the happiness she seeks? Experience the complete series in this hardcover edition, which also includes over twenty pages of ravishing color art!

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

PERFECT WORLD

Rie Aruga

An office party reunites Tsugumi with her high school crush Itsuki. He's realized his dream of becoming an architect, but along the way, he experienced a spinal injury that put him in a wheelchair. Now Tsugumi's rekindled feelings will butt up against prejudices she never considered — and Itsuki will have to decide if he's ready to let someone into his heart...

"Depicts with great delicacy and courage the difficulties some with disabilities experience getting involved in romantic relationships... Rie Aruga refuses to romanticize, pushing her heroine to face the reality of disability. She invites her readers to the same tasks of empathy, knowledge and recognition."
—Slate.fr

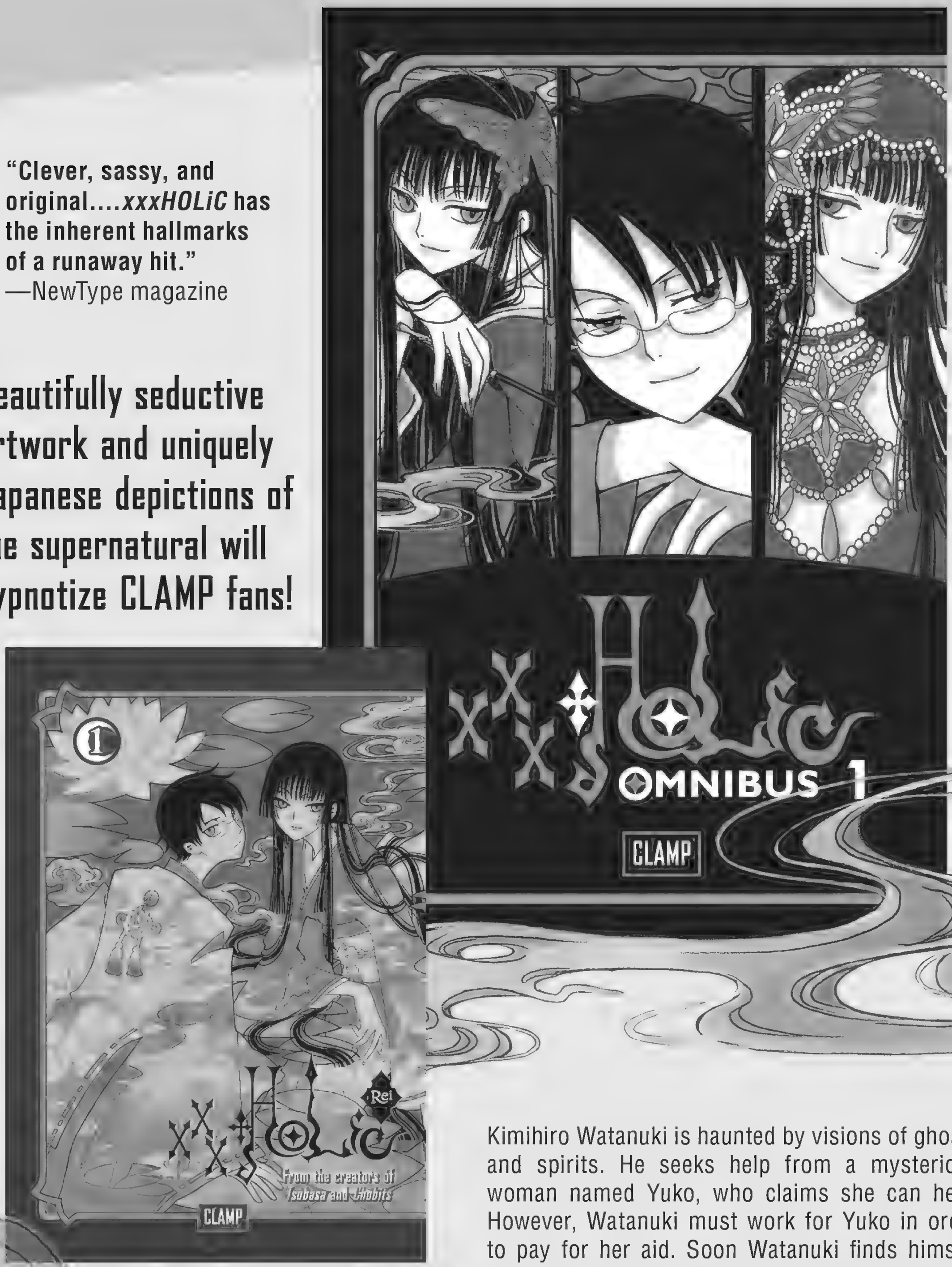
"An important entry [in manga romance]... The emotional core of both plot and characters indicates thoughtfulness... [Aruga's] research is readily apparent in the text and artwork, making this feel like a real story."
—Anime News Network

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Perfect World © Rie Aruga/Kodansha Ltd

"Clever, sassy, and original....*xxxHOLiC* has the inherent hallmarks of a runaway hit."
—NewType magazine

Beautifully seductive artwork and uniquely Japanese depictions of the supernatural will hypnotize CLAMP fans!



xxxHOLiC © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.
xxxHOLiC Rei © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Kimihiro Watanuki is haunted by visions of ghosts and spirits. He seeks help from a mysterious woman named Yuko, who claims she can help. However, Watanuki must work for Yuko in order to pay for her aid. Soon Watanuki finds himself employed in Yuko's shop, where he sees things and meets customers that are stranger than anything he could have ever imagined.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

The boys are back, in 400-page hardcovers that are as pretty and badass as they are!

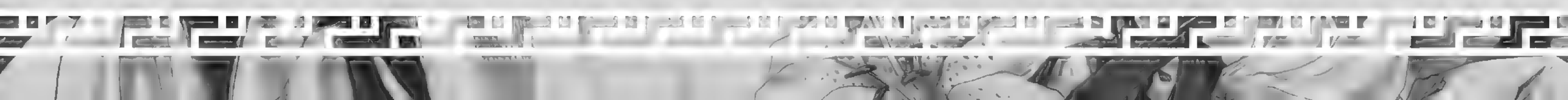
Saiyuki © Kazuya Minakura / Ichijinsha Inc.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

"AN EDGY COMIC LOOK AT AN ANCIENT CHINESE TALE." —YALSA

Genjo Sanzo is a Buddhist priest in the city of Togenkyo, which is being ravaged by yokai spirits that have fallen out of balance with the natural order. His superiors send him on a journey far to the west to discover why this is happening and how to stop it. His companions are three yokai with human souls. But this is no day trip — the four will encounter many discoveries and horrors on the way.

FEATURES NEW TRANSLATION, COLOR PAGES, AND BEAUTIFUL WRAPAROUND COVER ART!



One of CLAMP's biggest hits returns in this definitive, premium, hardcover 20th anniversary collector's edition!

"A wonderfully entertaining story that would be a great installment in anybody's manga collection."
— Anime News Network

"CLAMP is an all-female manga-creating team whose feminine touch shows in this entertaining, sci-fi soap opera."
— Publishers Weekly

Chobits © CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Poor college student Hideki is down on his luck. All he wants is a good job, a girlfriend, and his very own "persocom"—the latest and greatest in humanoid computer technology. Hideki's luck changes one night when he finds Chi—a persocom thrown out in a pile of trash. But Hideki soon discovers that there's much more to his cute new persocom than meets the eye.

KC
KODANSHA COMICS

The adorable new odd-couple cat comedy manga from the creator of the beloved *Chi's Sweet Home*, in full color!

Praise for *Chi's Sweet Home*

"Nearly impossible to turn away... a true all-ages title that anyone, young or old, cat lover or not, will enjoy. The stories will bring a smile to your face and warm your heart."

—School Library Journal

Sue & Tai-chan

Konami Kanata

Sue is an aging housecat who's looking forward to living out her life in peace... but her plans change when the mischievous black tomcat Tai-chan enters the picture! Hey! Sue never signed up to be a catsitter! *Sue & Tai-chan* is the latest from the reigning meow-narch of cute kitty comics, Konami Kanata.

Sue & Tai-chan © Konami Kanata/Kodansha Ltd.

KC KODANSHA COMICS

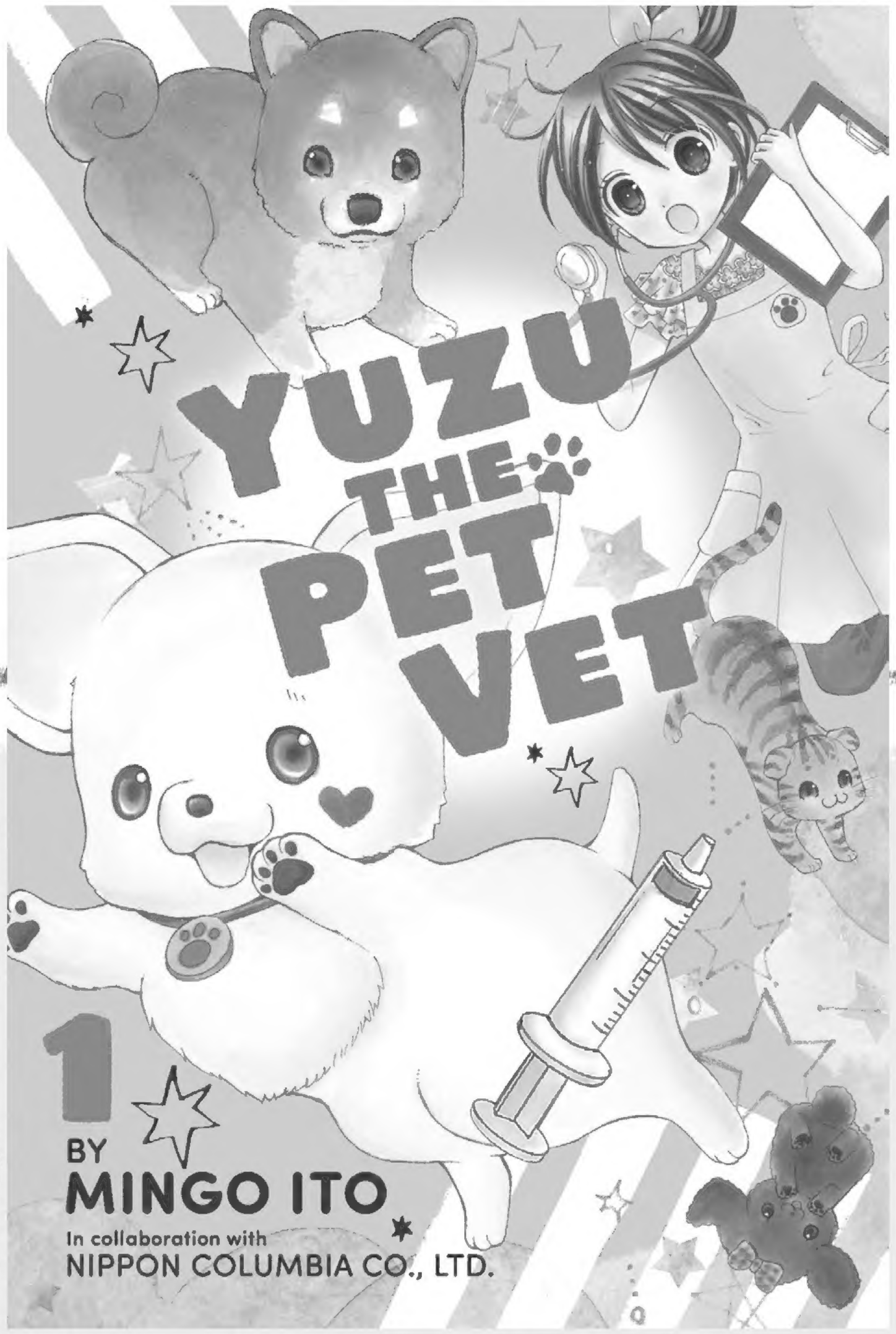
THE SWEET SCENT OF LOVE IS IN THE AIR! FOR FANS OF OFFBEAT ROMANCES LIKE WOTAKOI

Sweat and Soap © Kintetsu Yamada / Kodansha Ltd.

In an office romance, there's a fine line between sexy and awkward... and that line is where Asako — a woman who sweats copiously — meets Koutarou — a perfume developer who can't get enough of Asako's, er, scent. Don't miss a romcom manga like no other!

KC KODANSHA COMICS

CUTE ANIMALS AND LIFE LESSONS, PERFECT FOR ASPIRING PET VETS OF ALL AGES!



Yuzu the Pet Vet © Mingo Ito / NIPPON COLUMBIA CO., LTD./ Kodansha Ltd.

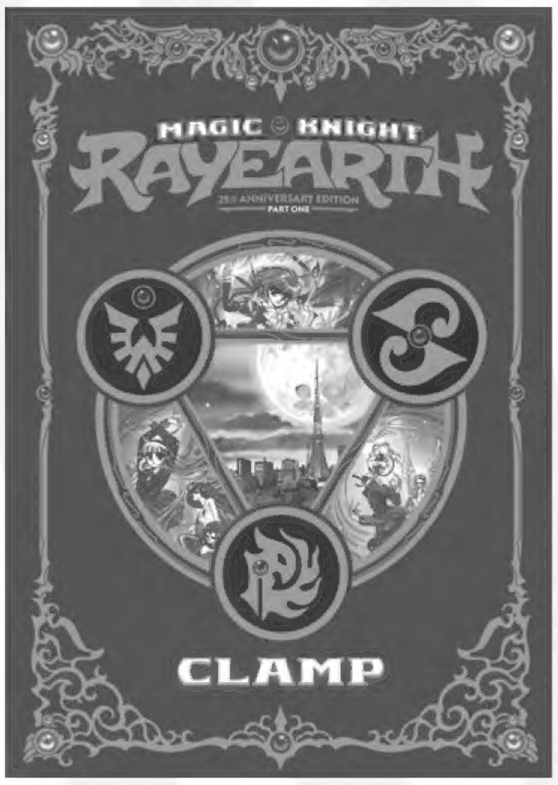
For an 11-year-old, Yuzu has a lot on her plate. When her mom gets sick and has to be hospitalized, Yuzu goes to live with her uncle who runs the local veterinary clinic. Yuzu's always been scared of animals, but she tries to help out. Through all the tough moments in her life, Yuzu realizes that she can help make things all right with a little help from her animal pals, peers, and kind grown-ups.

Every new patient is a furry friend in the making!

THE WORLD OF CLAMP!

Cardcaptor Sakura
Collector's Edition

Cardcaptor Sakura:
Clear Card



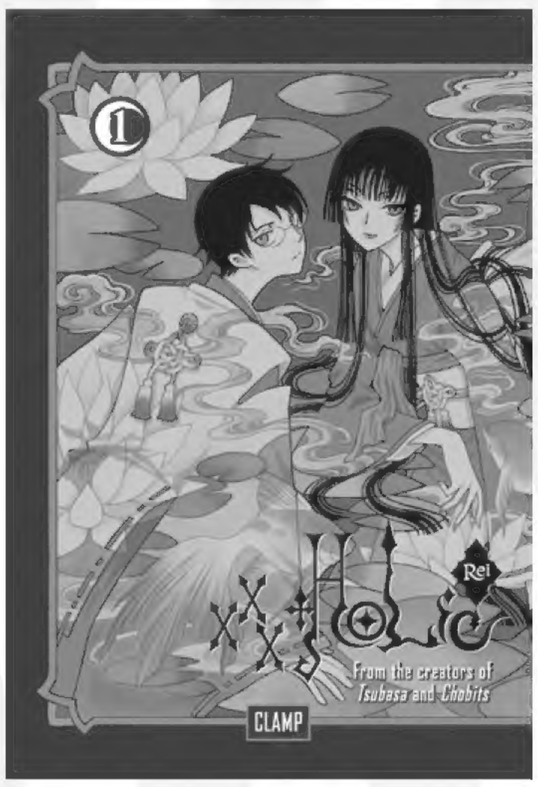
Magic Knight Rayearth
25th Anniversary Box Set

Chobits

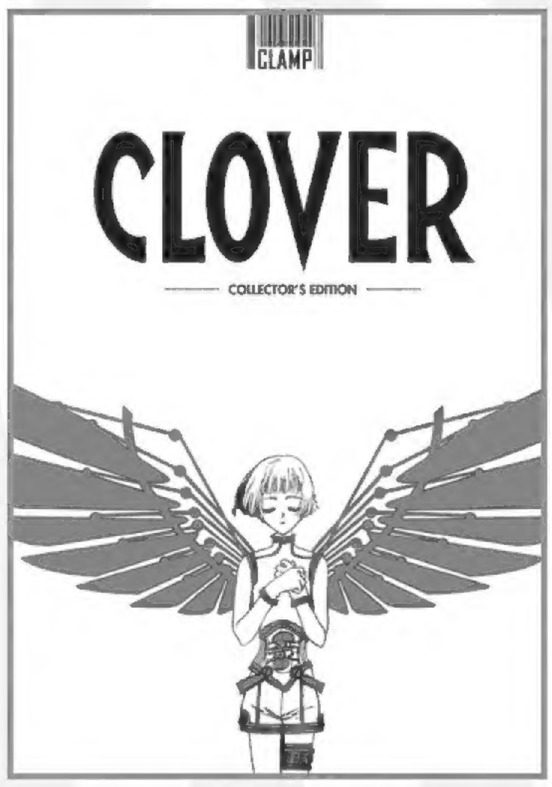
TSUBASA Omnibus

TSUBASA WoRLD CHRoNiCLE

xxxHOLiC Omnibus



xxxHOLiC Rei



CLOVER Collector's Edition

KC KODANSHA COMICS

Kodansha Comics welcomes you to explore the expansive world of CLAMP, the all-female artist collective that has produced some of the most acclaimed manga of the century. Our growing catalog includes icons like *Cardcaptor Sakura* and *Magic Knight Rayearth*, each crafted with CLAMP's one-of-a-kind style and characters!

© CLAMP·ShigatsuTsuitachi CO.,LTD./Kodansha Ltd.

Something's Wrong With Us 8

Kodansha Digital Edition

Something's Wrong With Us 8 copyright © 2018 Natsumi Ando
English translation copyright © 2022 Natsumi Ando

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2018 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9781646597819
Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation: Sawa Matsueda Savage
Lettering: Nicole Roderick
Editing: Jordan Blanco
Kodansha Comics edition cover design by Matthew Akuginow
Ripping: 1r0n

kodansha.us